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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR
APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON
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P 050253Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 272437

FOR DEP ASST SEC DAY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, BELGRADE, DAMASCUS, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS, SOFIA, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, SINAI FROM CAIRO NOV 03:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14996

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG UR BU YO
SUBJ: FAHMY-GROMYKO TALKS

REF: CAIRO 14480

1. TODAY'S MEETING BETWEEN FONMIN FAHMY AND FONMIN GROMYKO IN SOFIA RECEIVES RESTRAINED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN NOV 3 CAIRO DAILES. ARTICLES NOTE THAT SOFIA CHOSEN FOR MEETING BECAUSE "BULGARIA FRIEND OF BOTH USSR AND EGYPT" AND REITERATE STANDARD EGYPTIAN LINE THAT TALKS TO CENTER ON RECONVENING MEPC IN GENEVA AND BILATERAL RELATIONS (TOPICS UNSPECIFIED).

2. ALL DAILIES GUOTE FAHMY DEPARTURE STATEMENT THATGOE "OPTIMISTIC" AND THAT TALKS TO ESTABLISH "BEGINNING FOR PROMOTION OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTIRES." FAHMY NOTED THAT HE WOULD "SPEAK FRANKLY" WITH GROMYKO ON BISIS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXISTED, AND STILL EXISITS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR.

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3. FAHMY NOTED THAT HE VISITING BELGRADE AS PERSONAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT SADAT TO "EXCHANGE INFORMATION" AND TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES. ARTICLES ALSO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT BREZHNEV TO VISIT BELGRADE SOON AND SPECULATED THAT TITO ATTEMPTING TO BROKER SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RRECONCILATION.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET EMBASSY CAIRO TAKING CAUTIOUS, WAIT-AND-SEE APPROACH TOWARD GROMYKO/FAHMY MEETING. SEVERAL SOVIET DIPLOMATS HAVE REMARKED THAT GROMYKO WILL BE IN SOFIA PRIMARILY TO LISTEN AND WILL NOT PUT FORWARD ANY NEW PROPOSALS. SOVIETS COMMENTED THAT OUTCOME OF US ELECTIONS COULD HAVE SOME BEARING ON EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES IN SOFIA BUT THAT SOVIET POSITION VIS-A-VIS EGYPT WOULD REMAIN SAME.

5. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY APPARENTLY FEELS THAT FAHMY VISIT TO BELGRADE PRIMARILY FOR PROTOCOL REASONS, IN VIEW OF CLOSE CAIRO-BELGRADE TIES AND FACT THAT FAHMY WILL BE IN AREA. YUGOSLAV EMBOFF SPECULATED THAT MAIN TOPIC OF FAHMY TALKS WITH TITO WILL BE EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN WAKE OF ARAB SUMMIT. YUGOSLAV DISCOUNTED ANY NEW TITO MEDIATING ROLE, ESPCIALLY AS EGYPTIANS NOW TALKING DIRECTLY TO GROMYKO, BUT CONCEDED THAT TITO WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE RECONCILIATION IN LOW-KEY FASHION. EILTS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE272437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760413-0009
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761176/aaaacnru.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 14480
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAHMY-GROMYKO TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, BU, YO, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006